

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00

L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-13 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 EPG-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CEA-01 /112 W

-----090131Z 118097 /65

R 081655Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4787

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USLO PEKING

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD, EPAP

SUBJECT: FIRST UNCTAD PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON COTTON,  
JUNE 20-24

REF: (A) LONDON 9127 (B) STATE 119870

1. EMBOFF ON JUNE 8 CALLED ON DAVID JOHNSON, DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF CHEMICALS AND TEXTILES, TO DISCUSS U.K. POSITION AT FORTHCOMING UNCTAD MEETING ON COTTON (REF (A)).

2. JOHNSON SAID U.K. HAD SO FAR DONE LITTLE TO PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE LARGELY BECAUSE UNCTAD HAD NOT YET PRODUCED A PAPER ON COTTON. HE THOUGHT THE UNCTAD PAPER, ONCE OUT, WOULD FOLLOW THE USUAL LINE OF PROPOSING A COMMODITY AGREEMENT BASED ON A BUFFER STOCK AND THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME LDC SUPPORT FOR SUCH A CONCEPT. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT IN THE END THE CONFERENCE WOULD PROVE TO BE EXPLORATORY ONLY, POSSIBLY AGREEING TO SET UP SOME SORT OF WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE MATTER IN DEPTH. BASICALLY, HE EXPECTS THIS MEETING TO ACCOMPLISH LITTLE MORE THAN PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TALK ABOUT HOLDING THE NEXT ONE.

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3. CONCERNING SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED IN REF (B),  
JOHNSON HAD FOLLOWING TO SAY:

A) REPRESENTATION. JOHNSON WILL HEAD U.K. DEL, ACCOMPANIED BY ONE OR TWO TRADE ADVISERS. HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE SORT OF DELEGATIONS OTHERS MIGHT BRING TO THE MEETING.

B) U.K. POSITION ON POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. U.K. HAS OBVIOUSLY NOT GONE FAR DOWN THE ROAD IN ITS THINKING ON THIS. JOHNSON SAID THAT A BUFFER STOCK FOR COTTON WOULD BE HIGHLY IMPRACTICAL AND PROHIBITIVELY COSTLY BECAUSE OF THE MANY VARIETIES OF COTTON ON THE MARKET. JOHNSON AFFIRMED THAT AS IS THE CASE WITH THE U.S. COTTON INDUSTRY, THE U.K. TRADE IS ALSO STRONGLY OPPOSED TO AN INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT AIMED AT STABILIZING COTTON PRICES.

C) ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ICAC). JOHNSON SHARES THE U.S. VIEW

THAT THE ICAC IS A USEFUL ORGANIZATION, BOTH AS A FORUM FOR DISCUSSING MATTERS CONCERNING COTTON AND AS A CENTER FOR GENERATING DATA ON THE COMMODITY. HE SUGGESTED THAT A USEFUL OUTCOME OF THE UNCTAD MEETING MIGHT BE THE EVENTUAL DESIGNATION OF THE ICACAS THE FORUM FOR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS ON COTTON.

4. JOHNSON WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF COMPOSITION OF U.S. DEL AND ANY DETAILS ON U.S. POSITION WHICH WE COULD PASS ON TO HIM IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. SINCE HE IS NEW TO THE JOB, HE SEES GENEVA AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME PERSONAL DEEPENING WITH REGARD TO COTTON MATTERS IN ADVANCE OF THE ICAC MEETING NEXT FALL IN KOREA WHICH HE WILL ALSO ATTEND. WE THINK U.K. POSITION IS LIKELY TO OROVE QUITE CLOSE TO OUR OWN AND THAT JOHNSON WILL TURN OUT TO BE EASY TO WORK WITH AT THE MEETING. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BREWSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** FIRST UNCTAD PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON COTTON, JUNE 20-24  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EPAP, UK, UNCTAD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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